

NOVEMBER 19, 1965

# **Baker Aid To Bosch Is Alleged**

**Mann's Testimony  
Indicates CIA  
Discovered Link**

By David Kraslow  
Los Angeles Times

The Central Intelligence Agency reported last March that former Senate Majority Secretary Bobby Baker may have been working with financial backers of Juan Bosch, former president of the Dominican Republic.

This was learned yesterday from secret testimony taken by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee last July during its investigation of U.S. intervention in the Dominican rebellion.

Testimony of CIA Director William F. Raborn, Under Secretary of State Thomas Mann and other high Administration officials still is classified as "secret."

The testimony covered a wide range of U.S. military, diplomatic intelligence and economic involvement in the Dominican Republic before and after a coup was launched on April 24 against the regime of Donald Reid Cabral.

Baker's name was brought into the hearings by Sen. Bourke Hickenlooper (R-Iowa).

## **Mann Is Questioned**

Hickenlooper asked Mann if he had any knowledge that Baker was "working in collaboration" with Diego Bordas and Jose Benitez, both friends of Baker and who reportedly were helping to bankroll Bosch.

"This information, I think," Mann said, "is included in a CIA report dated the 18th of March, 1965. . . . I have no knowledge except what is contained in this report."

Bosch, deposed in a bloodless coup in 1963, was in exile in Puerto Rico at the time of the CIA report. The coup against Reid Cabral was launched in Bosch's name. Bosch has since returned to the Dominican Republic and is expected to again seek the presidency when elections are scheduled.

It is clear from the testimony that the Johnson Administration opposed the rebels fighting under the Bosch banner and the return of Bosch to power because of fear that a rebel victory could result in "another Cuba."

Mann testified that Bosch himself was not a Communist. But he said the United States had learned Bosch had secretly made a "political alliance of convenience" with three Dominican Communist parties—one oriented to Havana, another to Moscow and a third to Peking.

" . . . I think we ought to give Bosch credit for thinking that he could use these three Communist parties and control them," Mann said.

## **Control Issue**

"The gut issue is whether having entered into this kind of an alliance they controlled Bosch or Bosch controlled them."

After describing Bosch as a "poet-professor type" and a "do-gooder," Mann said: "In common with many Latin

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American politicians, he would make an alliance with the devil himself if he thought it would get him into office . . ."

Hickenlooper asked Mann about a report that Bosch, before the coup, had been "getting excellent financial support from different quarters in order to consolidate the PRD (the leftist but non-Communist Dominican Revolutionary Party) in his leadership."

Among the contributions, Hickenlooper said, were \$10,000 on March 12 and \$50,000 later from Bordas, a Dominican promoter-businessman.

"Jose Benitez, a Puerto Rican millionaire," Hickenlooper said, "is one of the other contributors, and Bobby Gene Baker, former Secretary of the U.S. Senate Majority Leader, a good friend of Bordas and Benitez who share business interests. Do you know anything about that allegation and those contributions?"

"We know there is a CIA report to this effect," Mann said, "and we also know that . . . a limited number of wealthy Dominicans were supporting financially the Bosch political activities."

A Jose Benitez of Puerto Rico testified during the Senate rules committee's lengthy and politically charged investigation of Baker's many-faceted financial dealings.

Baker resigned under fire as Secretary to Senate Democrats in October, 1963, just before the Rules Committee inquiry began. Benitez, a political operator in Puerto Rico, signed his Interior Depart-

ment post during the investigation. He had been Commissioner of the U.S. Trust Territory in the Pacific.

The inquiry disclosed that Benitez and Baker were partners in a deal to import meat from Haiti to Puerto Rico and the United States.

The committee also delved into alleged attempts by Baker and others to obtain gambling casino concessions in the Dominican Republic and elsewhere in the Caribbean.

Bordas's name came up in tee, and he appeared as a witness.

The Committee's report condemned Baker's sideline operations as grossly improper. A Federal grand jury in Washington has been investigating the Baker case since last fall.

Mann testified that the Johnson Administration had sounded out Joaquin Balaguer, another former Dominican president, about taking charge of a provisional government that would rule until elections could be held.

He said Balaguer refused, stating that he would return to office only if elected. Balaguer, who had been in exile in New York, also has returned to Santo Domingo and is expected to be a presidential candidate.

Mann conceded that the United States solicited from a military junta hastily formed early in the rebellion a request that Marines be sent to Santo Domingo to protect Americans there.

That request was made late in the afternoon of April 28. That evening President John-

son announced Marines had been ordered to protect Americans.

The request was solicited from the junta, Mann said, partly because it would give the United States sounder legal footing for the military intervention.

"We did not want to base our first landing on the ground of anti-communism but rather on the ground of saving American lives because that is what our thinking was at the time," Mann said.

The extent of this Nation's behind-the-scenes string-pulling in Santo Domingo also is illustrated in the testimony of Deputy Defense Secretary Cyrus Vance.

"We ourselves, in cooperation in the early days," he said, "arranged for the deportation of eight generals believed by us to have been the most corrupt" in the Dominican military.

Mann said the CIA knew of four plots being planned in Santo Domingo during March and April, but he said the Administration did not anticipate the defections among the military and did not expect a coup on April 24.